

City of Paintsville in the Grip of Oil Fever

CITY RESEMBLES TULSA IN EARLY DAYS OF BOOM; RIGS JAM JOHNSON ROADS.

(The following article was published in the Courier-Journal a few weeks ago. It is one of a series of articles by Mr. Wallace, of the editorial staff. We are a little late in publishing it, owing to the crowded condition of our columns, but it will be read with interest by those who have not seen it.)

Paintsville, Ky.—Oil excitement in Paintsville makes this already solidly prosperous mountain city resemble Tulsa in the early period of the oil boom in Oklahoma. Paintsville is the gateway to the great Johnson and Magoffin county oil fields.

The first thing that strikes the eye of the newly arrived in Paintsville is the spectacle of teams of oxen hauling oil rigs through the streets to the fields in which wells are being drilled. These oxen are of the type which were seen commonly in the logging camps of Western Kentucky thirty years ago. Some of them are "big horns" whose appearance indicates clearly their inheritance of the blood of the Spanish cattle which contribute the bulls used in the rings of Madrid and Seville.

The "oxen," as they are called in cowboy lingo, are not a native product. They have been brought in for use where the ground is too soft for mule or horse teams to work satisfactorily and where there are no roads over which trucks could haul the heavy materials used in drilling for oil. Some of them are from Texas, where they have been in use for the same purpose.

A team consists of eight or nine "yoke" of cattle, sixteen or eighteen oxen. The owners rent them for \$3 per yoke per day. Thus a team costs the oil man \$24 or \$72 a day. Many loads must be hauled before the entire rig for one drilling operation is on the ground. Often the distance is such that only one load a day can be made with oxen.

Drilling Well Expensive.

Drilling a well is expensive. I am told that it costs about \$5,000 on the average to send the drilling bit down to the Berea sand, about 1,000 feet below the surface. If a dry hole results someone or some stock company is out that much. In this field the probability of dry holes is said by oil men to be remote. Sensational wells have not yet come in, but substantial producers are flowing.

A lawyer here had a farm a little way out of Paintsville, worth about \$2,000. He leased half of it. Oil in paying flow was struck. He leased the other half for a royalty on each barrel plus a bonus of \$5,000 for permitting wells to be drilled on his property at a cost of \$5,000 each to the drillers.

A group of Paintsville men chipped in and bought a 265-acre tract for \$4,000. A well was drilled. It proved to be a producer. The tract was sold for \$350,000. One man who put in only \$100 drew out \$7,500 after paying his share of the expenses of development.

A single investor, a former Paducahan who had not been well-to-do before the deal in oil land, took 55 per cent of the investment of \$4,000 and drew out 55 per cent of the \$350,000, less the comparatively small expense of drilling the well.

A tract of less than nineteen acres developed in June and July by a group of Paintsville men and now is producing large quantities of oil.

One afternoon of my arrival, a well was being drilled the drilling near completion, about a quarter of a mile from the business center of Paintsville. Persons in automobiles, women footing it along the dusty roads with babies in their arms, boys, oil prospectors, land owners, holders of leases, were trooping to the scene of the drill-

ing to stand in the broiling sun, unaware of its heat, to await the last stroke of the drill which then was punching through the shale 1,665 feet below the surface. Everyone is interested intensely in everyone's well. Results are awaited with the tense excitement that marks the mood of the crowd at Churchill Downs when the Kentucky Derby is being run.

Maps in Hotel Studied.

In the hotel lobbies hang large maps of a considerable portion of Johnson county showing each farm and its ownership and whether it has been let on lease to an oil company. Men standing on chairs with their fingers on the map commenting on the situation in this and that part of the county are discussing oil in the manner in which the "forty-niners" must have discussed gold. And when oil is struck it is quite as good as gold.

I am told of a man who procured a lease for \$8,000 and was offered almost immediately \$100,000 for his rights. He refused the offer. Johnson county was a steady producer of a high-grade domestic coal for a good many years before the oil boom began. The coal still is going out on a basis of handsome profit to producers, but oil here and in Magoffin county is monopolizing everyone's attention.

It is pleasing to find that the native population—Kentuckians who have come here and Paintsville men who have lived here all of their lives—are getting profits out of oil. The farmers of this oil region have not been as easily persuaded to let go their lands without a real profit—as most Kentucky owners of coal lands were years ago when great coal tracts were acquired by Eastern interests.

Paintsville Feels Development.

Paintsville, already a city of brick streets and numerous handsome homes, including the residence which the late John C. Mayo built when he had become a millionaire coal king, is feeling in every kind of business the influence of oil development. A bank which had deposits of less than \$200,000 at the end of the year 1919 now has deposits of more than \$400,000, representing mainly small deposits by business establishments and individuals. Another bank which carried in June \$1,400,000 in round numbers, now has deposits of \$1,650,000. Acreage which used to sell at a very low agricultural value, timbering being about over, now is on a basis of from \$25 to \$1,000.

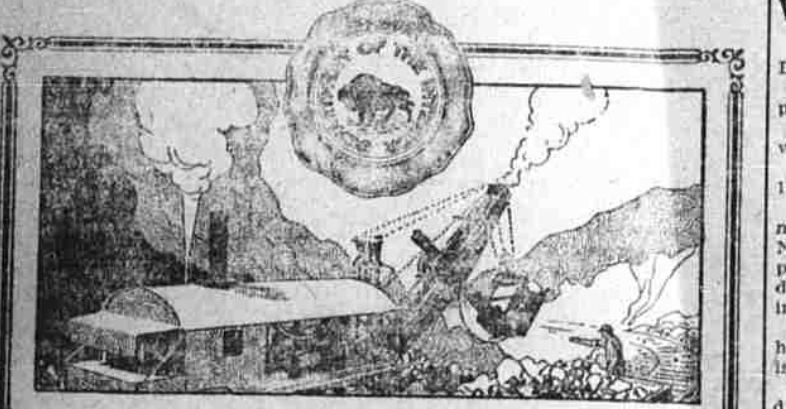
Some investigators predict greater results here than in the Lee county field where acreage has gone as high as \$30,000. A lease on a 65-acre farm brought \$100,000 recently.

A year ago only one well had been drilled. Nowadays there is a traffic jam of oil rigs between Paintsville and the Oil Springs field. Fifty or sixty wells are being drilled. There is a demand for teams, laborers, contractors greater than the supply. All barns are full and both cattle and horses are in camps. The various machines and materials which enter into the composition of a drilling outfit are stacked high, about the railroad station awaiting delivery.

What Paintsville may become within ten years is easily foretold by oil enthusiasts. It will be another Tulsa. Even a stranger within the gates, and not in an oil deal, can foresee a huge development in this field.

Mr. Vaughan, Farmer, Tells How He Lost All His Prize Seed Corn.

"I was sent away for some pedigree seed corn. But in a gunny sack and hung it on a rope suspended from roof. Rats got it all—how heated me, but they did because I got 5 dead whoppers in the morning after trying RAT-SNAP." Three sizes, 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by Louisa Drug Co., Louisa, L. F. Wellman, Louisa, R. T. Berry & Son, Blaine, Frank Frasher, Fort Gay, W. Va.



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Were it not for the assistance the Department of the Interior has rendered, our wonderful irrigation systems, waterworks and similar projects could never have been developed. Progress such as this is vital to all of us. This phase of our government's endeavors to further prosperity is graphically told in the fifth of the series of articles which we issue each month.

To receive this story and the ones previously published send us your name and address. There's no cost to you—nor are you placing yourself under any obligation.



TUSCOLA

The New Year was ushered in weeping but smiled pleasantly before the day was over only to weep again before the day closed.

It seems odd to us to write 1921 after we had formed the habit of writing 1920. Then the sum of 1921 gives us the unlucky 13. We are not superstitious and do not expect anything in the way of war or pestilence to visit us this year.

The year is full of hope and possibilities to everyone that will put forth the effort to gain success. We must work out our salvation.

The new year has brought the usual annual moving. It reminds us of the Methodist conference assigning circuits to its ministers—always changing.

Arch Murphy moved last week from Geo. Calvin's farm to J. K. Woods' farm on Spring creek.

Green Jordan moved from Glenwood to Geo. Calvin's farm.

Jasper Triplett moved from West Virginia to near Hicksville.

There will be plenty of renters this year as men are hunting for farms to rent.

Oil news of general interest seems scarce just now.

Farmers are not done gathering corn and the yield and quality are excellent.

Some of our tobacco growers have shipped their tobacco but as far as we have been informed they haven't received their returns on it.

Some have sold at a very low price rather than take chances on the market.

School closed at Green Valley Friday with an entertainment given by the school. A large number was present and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

There will be a winter school at Baker beginning the 17 inst. Isaac Cunningham teacher.

A. R. Friend and H. A. Jordan were at Grayson last week looking after the interest of their tobacco.

Fred Vanhorn has been moving his plunder and some of his household goods to Carter county.

We are very sorry to see them leave as the county has no better citizens than Fred Vanhorn and wife and William Adkins and wife.

OLD LEM JUCKLENS.

PEPTO-MANGAN WILL HELP FIGHT COLDS

Make Up Your Mind to Keep Free From Colds. Get Your Blood in Good Condition.

START TAKING PEPTO-MANGAN

Now Is the Time to Build Up. You Will Be Strong This Winter

Every house has a supply of fuel for winter. People know cold weather is coming. They get ready for it.

How many people get their own bodies ready for winter? Most of us go around all summer in the intense heat burning up energy, working hard all day and sometimes lying awake nights sleepless in the heat.

Winter comes along. It catches many people totally unprepared physically. Few of us take stock of our health. Whether we will be well, healthy and strong, we often leave too much to chance.

But not everybody. Nowadays people are learning. They know this matter of enjoying good health is a thing they can help control. If you live right eat right, get plenty of sleep, breathe fresh air and keep your blood in good condition, you will be all right.

It is so simple. If you feel a little off in health—perhaps worn out and pale—don't take chances. There's no need of it. Buy some Pepto-Mangan of your druggist. Begin taking it today. You can get it in liquid or tablet form. Tell your druggist which you prefer. But be certain that you get the genuine Pepto-Mangan; ask for it by the full name—"Gude's" Pepto-Mangan." Look for the name "Gude's" on the package.

Advertisement.

WILBUR AND CORDELL

Several from here attended church at Lower Brushy Saturday and Sunday.

The sick of our community are improving nicely.

News Year's at this place was spent very quietly, Christmas also.

School will be out at this place the 13th.

Amos H. Andrews and Manuel Lehman Cordle who spent Christmas and New Years with home folks of this place, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Cordle and daughters, have returned to their home in London, Ohio.

Miss Nannie Steele has returned home from Richmond since her school is out.

Miss Esta Moore was the Sunday dinner guest of Miss Erma Prince.

Elva Cordle who has been visiting his best girl of this place, Miss Esta Moore, has returned to Wheelersburg where he has employment.

Mrs. W. G. Lester was the pleasant dinner guest of Mrs. T. M. Cordle Sunday.

Sylvia and Ada Steele were the dinner guests of Blanche Griffith Sunday.

Willie Hayes was calling on his best girl at Adams New Years.

Mrs. Jennings Cordle was calling on home folks at Hicksville last week.

Mrs. Levi Cordle and Mrs. T. M. Cordle attended church at Mattie Tuesday.

Miss Golda McDowell was the pleasant guest of Miss Opal Baker one day this week.

Miss Esther Cordle was visiting her cousin at Old Hood Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Mollie and Monnie Cordle were the guests of Mrs. J. B. Prince and daughters Tuesday.

Mrs. Isaac Moore and daughter Edna have gone to Ashland to see Mr. Moore who is very ill.

Miss Lydia Osborn was the guest of Miss Nona Arrington Saturday.

Artie Holbrook of Hicksville was calling on his best girl at this place Saturday and Sunday, Miss Erma Prince.

Mrs. Mint Hayes and daughter Ina accompanied little Madgie Johnson to her home in Ohio. TWO CAPTAINS.

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THE FOLLOWING ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES

Each one greater in selection and value giving than in previous years.

JANUARY WHITE SALE

In this sale the housekeeper is offered a splendid opportunity to purchase fine linens and white yard goods of excellent quality at very low prices.

JANUARY CLEARANCES

Remarkable values in women's, misses' and girls' apparel now marked for clearance at special low prices.

REMNANT SALES

Now is the time to purchase, at radical reductions, choice materials in remnants ranging up to nine yards in length.

HALF-YEARLY FURNITURE SALE

A discount of 25% is given on all furniture—both suites and separate pieces—each piece of the superior Pogue quality. Odd lots and discontinued lines are reduced from 1/3 to 1/2.

CLEARANCE OF RUGS

Domestic rugs, including Wiltons, Axminsters, body and tapestry Brussels, in rich colors and handsome patterns are marked at very special clearance prices.

SALE OF MEN'S CLOTHING

Every suit and overcoat for men marked for immediate clearance at the unusual prices—35.00, 50.00, 65.00.

THE H. & S. POGUE CO. CINCINNATI, OHIO

5 FLEE HARLAN CONVICT CAMP.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 18.—J. T. Roy, ality, superintendent of the suspended convict road camp was suspended today for failure to report promptly the escape of five prisoners.

A thorough investigation has been launched by William Moyer, warden of the Frankfort Reformatory, who today sent four additional guards to the prison camp.

Three of the five prisoners, who escaped Wednesday night by breaking a lock on the prison house door, have been recaptured and were brought back to Frankfort today. They were Ben Johnson and James McKay, Louisville, and Lee Walker, Perry county, all negroes. They were apprehended by Chief of Police Halcomb at Lynch.

News of the escape was not received until today. D. W. Middleton, one of the guards on duty at night, has resigned.

Royalty succeeded John Marcan, who was discharged following evidence of laxness at the camp at the inquiry into the murder of Miss Lara Parsons.

ULYSSES

Church was largely attended at this place Sunday. Preachers Dave Allen, Hays, Johnnie Vanhouse.

Tobias Chandler, Ray Bevins of Charley attended church here Saturday and Sunday.

We are sorry to say Aunt Eliza Castle is paralyzed. She is at her sister's, Mrs. Rhode Murray at Lowmansville.

Glad to say Aunt Jennima Borders who has been sick for awhile is getting better.

Mrs. Henry Borders who has been sick for the last few days remains quite ill.

Charley Borders left here Sunday morning for New Thacker, W. Va.

Miss Carnal Castle was the dinner guest of home folks Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Bevins of Charley, attended church here Sunday and took dinner with her sister, Mrs. Marion Young.

Artie Borders has left Burdine for New Thacker.

DAISIES WON'T TELL.

Some people won't read a book unless it has been barred from the Public Library.

When a lantern-jawed man gets into an argument he doesn't throw any more light on the subject than the other fellow.

A High School girl may not get 50 in her other lessons. But you can bet she'll get 100 in her Dancing Lessons.

Many a man who owes his success to his wife hates like the devil to pay her anything on account.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

ORANGE-CRUSH VINDICATED.

An inadvertent injustice to Orange-Crush has been corrected. In The Literary Digest of October 30, 1920, an editorial comment mistakenly stated the following:

"Orangeade" and "orange crush" that never came nearer to an orange than the tanks of a synthetic chemical laboratory are no longer to be served under those names with Uncle Sam's permission."

When the real facts about Orange-Crush were explained to the publishers of The Literary Digest, the injustice of the article was immediately apparent to them, and they readily agreed to print a correction, which appeared in the December 4th issue, on page 31. This correction is reproduced below:

"A reference was made in our article of October 30 to 'orange crush' as made in a synthetic laboratory, and we further said that it was no longer to be served under this name with the Government's permission. This statement we wish to correct. Ward's Orange Crush, which is the only orange drink marketed under the trade-name 'crush,' is, as per their label, composed of orange-oil, citric acid, orange-juice, pure granulated can-sugar and water, and colored with United States certified food color."

LUKE McLUKE SAYS:

A woman has to have a sharp tongue to get a word in edgewise when three other women are talking.

The reason she is known as a Belle is because you never know she has a Tongue until after you have given her a Ring.

If Friend Husband acts real penitent and brings her a nice present Friend Wife will forgive him for the mean things she said and did to him.

The reason why a man acts like he was the Whole House when his wife has company is because he is going to act like he is the Door Mat when the company leaves.

Of course it is none of our business. But no woman who has ankles like knees has any business wearing short skirts.

Some people won't read a book unless it has been barred from the Public Library.

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A High School girl may not get 50 in her other lessons. But you can bet she'll get 100 in her Dancing Lessons.

Many a man who owes his success to his wife hates like the devil to pay her anything on account.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Why I Put Up With Rats for Years," Writes N. Windsor, Farmer.

"Years ago I bought some rat poison, which nearly killed our fine watch dog. It so scared us that we suffered a long time with rats until my neighbor told me about RAT-SNAP. That's the sure rat killer and a safe one."

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PENSIONS

Soldiers of the Spanish-American war may now have title to a pension of \$12 to \$30 per month under the NEW LAW. Blankets and full instructions free. Also, widows of said soldiers may have title to pension under act of July 16, 1918. Write now.

EMORY J. SKAGGS, Atty. Nat. Soldiers Home, Virginia

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